

The lecturer then gave a simple account of "Why Babies Die," touching upon the chief causes of the high infant mortality rate, and pointing out that the cause which underlay all others was the lack of knowledge on the part of the mothers as to the care both of their own health and that of their children. The lecture was listened to with the greatest interest. Next Friday Mrs. Barnes proposes to speak on "How to Get Ready for Baby" (the mother's preparation). Mrs. Gervis, wife of Alderman Gervis, will take the chair.

Some interesting letters on the question of the value of training in nursing have appeared during the week in our "Woman's Platform" of *The Standard*. We quote Miss Mollett's reply to an "Untrained Nurse"—it puts our point of view so admirably:—

"'Untrained Nurse' entirely misses the point I wished to emphasise. Tenderness, sympathy, and kindness are not attributes confined either to trained or untrained nurses; they are, I like to think, widely diffused throughout humanity. Nor do I for one moment suggest that women who are untrained should be debarred from nursing; so long as those who employ them know their status, it is entirely their own affair.

What I and those who think as I do strongly deprecate is the placing of untrained women in official and semi-official positions, which call for skilled nursing knowledge, and cloaking their deficiencies under a misleading title.

If sickness, misery, and pain could be relieved by kindness and good-will alone, then, indeed, would the world's heaviest tasks be made easy. But we know—none better—that only by stern labour, by honest work, and honest skill, can true help be given to those who suffer. However good the intention may be, nay, however great the aptitude, nursing, like any other craft, must be learnt by practice and study under close, skilled supervision.

'Untrained Nurse' is no impostor, for she lays no claim to what she does not possess; but I can assure her that the number of untrained women who pose as trained is large, and they are to be found in positions where their lack of knowledge, not good-will, is distinctly a danger."

For some time it has been felt that the North Berks Nursing Association has not been as locally useful as it should be, owing to the difficulty of finding necessary accommodation for the nurse in the limited rooms of the cottages. To meet the difficulty a parish nurse has been provided through the efforts of Mrs. Peel and Mrs. Crum.

Mr. James Wilcock, chairman of the Refuge Assurance Company, has left £26,050 to

charity, of which the Blackburn District Nursing Association gets £2,000.

The new Association of Catholic Nurses, lately formed in Dublin, propose to have a dance in support of a reading-room and library at the Gresham Hotel this week.

We are pleased to hear that the organization of the Bush Nursing Scheme in Australia, initiated by Lady Dudley, is making steady progress. It is reported from Victoria that inquiries respecting new nurses have been received from all parts of the State.

At a meeting recently held in Melbourne, it was mentioned that the amount of travelling that had to be done by nurses going to their districts and by the inspector was a serious drain on the funds of the association, and it was generally agreed that the time had come when the association could reasonably ask the Government to grant free passes to those persons engaged on its business. The association, it was pointed out, was doing a philanthropic work, and had not sought the assistance of the Government. It was decided to approach the Government on this matter.

Dr. Barrett stated that the Lady Dudley Bush Nursing Trust Fund now amounted to £1,617, which was invested at about 4 per cent. Only the income, however, could be used, and that was devoted entirely to supplementing the local contributions and paying for the four nurses already installed. Reports received from the nurses showed that excellent work was being done. Dr. Springthorpe suggested that in addition to present qualifications nurses working under the auspices of the association should possess a certificate from the St. John Ambulance Association, and also have some knowledge of district nursing work. The suggestion was generally endorsed.

Nurses who so often crave for sweets will approve of Dr. Woods Hutchinson's opinion on the value of sugar as a food. Writing in the *Girl's Own Paper and Woman's Magazine* he says:—"One of the greatest values of sugar, apart from its high staying power, is the rapidity with which it can be absorbed and burnt in the bodily engine. The careful and exhaustive researches of Lee, Mosso, Harley and Schumburg showed that there was no food which would restore working power to fatigued muscles of both men and animals as quickly and effectively as pure sugar. Indeed, it was suggested by Professor Lee that tired business

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